

# B-1 BOMBER

Bomber modernization is the Air Force's number one mid-term priority. The B-1 Conventional Mission Upgrade Program (CMUP) is a time phased upgrade to enhance the B-1's lethality, survivability and supportability, increasing its effectiveness as a conventional platform. With its greater numbers, larger payload and higher speed, the B-1 is the backbone of the conventional bomber force.

## ● Program Highlights

- The B-1 is a multi-role, long range bomber developed in the 1970s by then Rockwell International (now Boeing), CA, for a dual nuclear-conventional role
  - Initial operational capability (IOC) was achieved in September 1986 with the 100th aircraft delivered in April 1988
  - 23 aircraft at Ellsworth AFB, SD, 12 at McConnell AFB, KS, 41 at Dyess AFB, TX, 11 at Mt Home, ID and 6 at Robins AFB, GA
  - 2 test aircraft at Edwards AFB, CA
  - 4 aircraft lost to mishaps; 1 eliminated under START II Treaty
- Through 1991, the B-1 was dedicated to the nuclear deterrence role as part of the single integrated operational plan (SIOP)
- In FY93, the Air Force initiated CMUP to improve the B-1's conventional warfighting capabilities. Capability will be delivered in blocks attained by hardware modifications with corresponding software updates:
  - Initial conventional capability was optimized for delivery of Mk-82 non-precision 500lb gravity bombs
  - Current capability (Block C) also provides delivery of up to 30 Cluster Bomb Units (CBUs) per sortie for enhanced conventional capability against advancing armor. Initial capability achieved in September 1996 with FOC in August 1997
  - Block D integrates the ALE-50 repeater decoy system, the first leg of the electronic countermeasures upgrade, and JDAM for near precision capability and adds anti-jam radios for secure communication in force packages. FY96 and FY97 Congressional plus-ups are being used to accelerate JDAM initial capability by 18 months (1QFY99)
  - Block E upgrades the current avionics computer suite and integrates Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser (WCMD), Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) and Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) for standoff capability (FY02)
  - Block F improves the aircraft's electronic countermeasures' situational awareness and jamming capabilities in FY02

## ● Operational Requirement

- CMUP will make the B-1 the most versatile conventional bomber in the world
  - It will enhance B-1 capability to hold any target at risk by employing CBU's, JDAM, JSOW and JASSM
  - It will upgrade B-1 electronic countermeasures to increase the number of targets at risk
  - It will reduce operational costs through reliability and maintainability improvements
  - It will ensure the B-1 can deploy and operate to meet any contingency

### ● Key Leaders' Quotes

*"The B-1, which is programmed for use solely in conventional missions by the end of 1997, will be the backbone of the future bomber force. By the end of the decade, programmed upgrades will give the B-1 an advanced navigation system integrated with the NAVSTAR GPS, and an improved communication system."*

Dr. William T. Perry  
Former Secretary of Defense

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*"While the B-2 will be used to penetrate the most sophisticated enemy defense, the B-1 will be the backbone of the fleet, with its greater numbers, larger payload, and higher speed."*

Dr. Sheila E. Widnall  
Secretary of the Air Force

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*"This nation's bomber force gives our CINCs a tool that they can be employing while other forces are deploying. They need to do this with a combination of stand-off, direct attack weapons, cluster weapons. Our B-2s, B-1s and B-52s will be able to deny the enemy a sanctuary of night and poor weather."*

General (Ret.) Ronald R. Fogleman  
Former Air Force Chief of Staff

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*"The B-1 will be the workhorse and the most flexible bomber supporting this power projection role."*

General (Ret.) John M. Loh  
Former Commander, Air Combat Command

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*"The B-1, when upgraded to deliver accurate conventional munitions, will be the backbone and workhorse of our bomber force. In the first days of war, the B-1 will be able to strike with standoff precision weapons, or use its speed, electronic countermeasures, and nap-of-the-earth flying to penetrate medium-threat enemy defenses and attack a wide variety of critical targets. In addition, the B-1 -- with its great speed and firepower -- can integrate easily into composite strike packages with fighters and defense suppression aircraft to attack more heavily defended targets."*

General (Ret.) John M. Loh  
Former Commander, Air Combat Command

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*"[The ORA] says B-1s are supportable and ready for the upgrades necessary to fully realize their place as the backbone of our bomber road map...With the proposed upgrades, the B-1 will be the workhorse of the nation's bomber force."*

General (Ret.) John M. Loh  
Former Commander, Air Combat Command

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*"Our high-value bombers [B-1, B-2, B-52] and fighters, mated with advanced munitions, are the most potent and versatile elements of our joint air power team that will deliver the bulk of combat air power in any major regional conflict."*

General (Ret.) John M. Loh  
Former Commander, Air Combat Command

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